

# DINING OUT

BY RUTH MOSSKOR JOHNSTON  
SPECIAL WRITER

With most adults in the workforce, planning a big family meal on Easter Sunday is not necessarily part of the scheduled events in the planner — where to go, what to do? Here are some great brunch options for families or singles who want to celebrate in style:

■ **Northern Lakes Seafood Company** — Inside the Kingsley Inn, 1476 North Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills, (248) 646-7900. Adults, \$24.95; children, \$12.95, no charge for children under 5. Serving 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in a newly renovated grand ball room and in the dining room. Traditional Easter brunch with a big bunny on hand for the kiddies. Choices include a cold breakfast station (fruit, granola, yogurt and jam), omelet station, traditional breakfast station (egg selections, bacon, sausage links, hash browns and French toast made out of challah), a salad station (all kinds of salads — pasta, green and chilled shrimp), and a principal station (Prime Rib, Oven Roasted Turkey, a weekly seafood inspiration, Chicken Sautéed with Wild Mushrooms, potatoes and a special vegetable weekly), and the sweet table.

■ **The Townsend Hotel** — 100 Townsend Street, Birmingham, (248) 642-7900 Ext. 7131 for reservations at the grill (all of which must be guaranteed with a credit card). A 72-hour cancellation notice is required — \$50 bucks is charged to your credit card if you forget. Direct reservations for the ballroom only, (248) 642-7900 Ext. 7102 or (248) 642-5027.

The European-style hotel in bustling downtown Birmingham will serve Easter brunch. The Rugby Grill will serve plated lunch and dinners. Complimentary photos with the Easter Bunny.

The well-respected, Rugby Grill has a menu priced at \$58 per adult, \$24 for children, age 5 to 12, no charge for children, age 4 and younger. Price doesn't include beverage, tax or gratuity. Seatings at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

This upscale menu includes fancy appetizers, soup, salad, entrees (Pan Seared Filet of Salmon, Rack of Colorado Lamb or Roasted Breast of Pheasant), dessert, and coffee.

Seatings in the new ballroom at 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Adults, \$52 per person; \$19 for children, age 5-12 years; no charge for children under 4. Price doesn't include beverage, tax or gratuity.

The buffet offers plenty (along with complimentary mimosas and a special children's buffet and sundae bar). Grown-up goodies include seafood, a breakfast station with made-to-order omelets, bacon and potatoes, a salad bar station, a pasta station, carving stations, and chafing stations with Roast Beef, Rack of Lamb and Honey Baked Ham with Pineapple Compote, and loads of other Easter foods, as well as fine desserts and pastries.

The kiddie buffet is loaded with food kids like, such as chicken tenders, mini burgers, pancakes, pizza, macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter and jelly.

■ **Holly Hotel** — 110 Battle Alley, Holly, (248) 634-5208. Easter brunch and dinner. The atmosphere is perfect — an historic hotel (1891) on the National Register of Historic Places. Children can meet the Easter Bunny and hang for Easter eggs during brunch, served 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Foods include prime rib, shrimp, poached salmon, and various pates, terrines and of course desserts, all for \$21



per person (\$17 for club members).

Easter dinner will be served 4-8 p.m. A Victorian Easter meal complete with soup, salad, choices of entree — Tennessee Ham with Caramelized Apple Stacks, Braised Lamb with Fennel, Baked Salmon with Mascarpone Spinach, Filet of Beef with Truffled Mushrooms — traditional sides and Easter bread and rolls. Prices are \$26 per person and \$21 for club members. Definitely make reservations.

## Wayne County

■ **Ernesto's** — 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth, (734) 453-2002. A \$10 per person deposit required at time of reservation. Seatings 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 2-6 p.m. Adults \$23.95, children 6-10, \$9.95, no charge for children 5 and younger. A

gratuity of 17 percent will be added to all checks.

This spread, in an Italian Country Inn, features a fruit bar, salad bar, dessert bar, and carving stations, along with a myriad of other entrees. Something for everyone — meat, pasta poultry, fish, breakfast goodies, vegetables, the works — even homemade rolls.

■ **Too Chez** — 27155 Sharon Drive, Novi, (248) 348-5555. Under the new direction of Chef Mike Schmidt things are moving and grooving at Too Chez, including Easter Brunch. This special brunch will be served 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$21.95 for adults, \$12.95 for children, ages 6-12, no charge for children, age 5 and under. Reservations accepted for every half-hour. Call ahead.

Offerings include an omelet station, made to order eggs, a roast station offering carvables of Roast Beef au Jus, Roast Turkey, and Baked Ham (with appropriate sides). The main buffet will feature Baked Salmon with Roasted Vegetables and Rice, Quiche with Crabmeat and Asparagus, Smoked Salmon and Whitefish, Eggs Benedict, Waffles, French Toast, Ham, Sausage and Bacon. An assortment of breads, croissants, bagels and muffins along with an array of fresh fruit. Sweet endings will also be available.

■ **The Ritz Carlton-Dearborn** — Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr., Dearborn, (313) 441-2000. Easter Brunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Plaza Ballroom. Adults pay \$60 per person. Children pay \$19 (inclusive of taxes and gratuity). The Plaza Ballroom buffet will include a shrimp/crab claw and caviar display to designer omelets and made-to-order waffles and pancakes. Want a more traditional fare? They've got that too: Leg of Lamb, Braided Veal Medallion, Stuffed

Park Loin, Roasted Chicken, Eggs Benedict, Polish Kielbasa, and Beef Tenderloin, along with cold foods, including salads, cheese and fruit.

The Grille — (inside the hotel) is offering an a la carte menu filled with traditional Easter favorites at a la carte prices, 1-8 p.m.

■ **The Whitney** — 4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 832-6700. An air of Early American elegance in this restored and opulent Victorian mansion makes you think you are somewhere other than Detroit. Open for brunch every Sunday, The Whitney has served Easter brunch for the past 16 years. Brunch served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and reservations are required. Patrons select one choice for three of the four courses (\$30). First course includes juice, sweet rolls, mini-bagels, croissant (with herb cream cheese), chicken mousse and house-made gravlax. There will be some specials for Easter, delicious breads and pastries all made in-house.

## Out of town

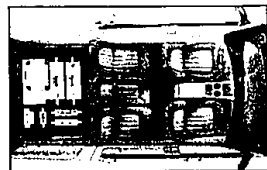
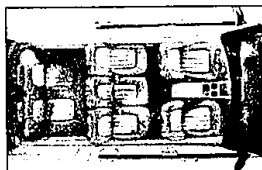
■ **Thomas Edison Inn** — 600 Thomas Edison Parkway, Port Huron, (810) 984-8000 or toll free (800) 451-7991. It's not historic, although it is situated in the town where Thomas Edison was born. This lovely Inn at waterside, has a great view from the dining area. Known for brunch buffets, this full service inn will serve a special Easter buffet the will cost \$18.95 for adults, \$9.95 for 7- to 11-year olds, \$5.95 for 4- to 6-year olds and no charge for children under 4. Serving from noon to 7:30 p.m.

Menu includes roast pork with stuffing, pasta, lamb, mushroom ravioli, mussels, and ribs, along with carved ham and prime rib, shrimp and crab, smoked fish, assorted salads and desserts.



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